

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An image forming apparatus ~~which can be used with a plurality of attachment units each of which includes a controlled element~~, comprising:

- a main section;
- a plurality of attachment units which are attached to said main section in a cascade arrangement, and each of which includes a controlled element; and
- a line group which connects said main section with said plurality of attachment units, and which establishes communications between said main section and said controlled elements which are respectively disposed to said plurality of attachment units, wherein
 - said line group includes signal lines and selective control lines,
 - said signal lines connect said controlled elements in parallel with said main section, to thereby realize a communication between each one of said controlled elements and said main section, and
 - said selective control lines connect said main section respectively with said attachment units, to thereby select one of said attachment units to which said main section is to communicate
- ~~signal lines which connect said controlled elements said main section, to thereby realize a communication between each one of said controlled elements and said main section; and~~

~~selective control lines which connect said main section respectively with said attachment units, to thereby select one of said attachment units to which said main section is to communicate,~~

~~wherein said main section and said plurality of attachment units are connected with each other in a cascade arrangement by a line group which contains said signal lines and said selective control lines, and via said line group, communications are established between said main section and said controlled elements which are respectively disposed to said plurality of attachment units.~~

2. (original): The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein said selective control lines are provided in accordance with a cascade connection count of said attachment units relative to said main section.

3. (original): The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein when said main section activates any one of said selective control lines, a current path is established via said signal lines between said main section and said controlled element which is disposed to said attachment unit which corresponds to thus activated selective control line.

4. (original): The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein each one of said attachment units comprises:

an upstream-side connector which electrically connects said line group between this attachment unit and said attachment unit which is cascaded on the upstream side, which is closer to said main section than this attachment unit in the order of connection, or said main section; and

a downstream-side connector which electrically connects said line group between this attachment unit and said attachment unit which is cascaded on the downstream side which is opposite to the upstream side in the order of connection.

5. (currently amended): The image forming apparatus of claim 4, wherein said main section comprises a main-section connector to connect said line group electrically to said attachment unit, and

said main-section connector and said ~~upstream-side~~downstream-side connector are structured so as to be connected with said ~~downstream-side~~upstream-side connector.

6. (original): The image forming apparatus of claim 4, wherein a relay substrate, which is for mutually connecting straight-joint harnesses connected respectively to said upstream-side connector and said downstream-side connector, is disposed inside each one of said attachment units.

7. (original): The image forming apparatus of claim 4, wherein in each one of said attachment units, internal wirings are installed between said upstream-side connector and said

downstream-side connector in such a manner that the position of a contact in said upstream-side connector assigned to said selective control line corresponding to this attachment unit is identical between said attachment units.

8. (original): The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plurality of attachment units have the same function with each other.

9. (original): The image forming apparatus of claim 8, wherein said plurality of attachment units have the same structure with each other.

10. (new): The image forming apparatus of claim 4, wherein
each one of said attachment units comprises a printed circuit board as a relay on which an electric substrate is mounted, and
said electric circuit includes said controlled element, is connected to said upstream-side connector with a group of straight cables, and is connected to said down-stream side connector with another group of straight cables.